Six-Month Term for Death Car Driver

Marine Pilot Convicted

A six-month jail sentence for criminally negligent driving was handed down by Mr. Justice H. A. Maclean in assize court yesterday to B.C. marine pilot Patrick Norman Morrison, South Burnaby.

Conviction by the jury was accompanied by a strong recommendation for leniency.

Defence counsel Alan Macfarlane said last night the question of appeal was under study, and "most likely" an appeal would be filed.

Charge against Morrison arose from a traffic accident last August 21, at Patricia Bay Highway and Trans-Canada Highway, when his car, carrying Morrison and two other men, crashed end over end.

William O. Boyce, one of the passengers, suffered fatal injuries in the smash-up.

Backing up the jury's recommendation, defence counsel Macfarlane presented testimonials from Morrison's superiors and recalled to the court that Morrison and his wife have three small children with a fourth expected soon.

Morrison, he said, is 35 years of age and had been a member of the merchant marine sinuce June 16, 1939. He had obtained his master's papers in 1952, and since April 30, 1958, has been a marine pilot on this coast.

Following the accident, Mr. Morrison said, his client was in hospital until mid-October, and was still under doctor's care.

Alan E. Bigelow, crown prosecutor, recalled to the court that the purpose of a sentence must be to serve as a deterrent to others, as well as a punishment for the accused.

Mr. Justice Maclean told accused prior to passing sentence that, in this day of many cars his offence was a very serious one—that "but for the grace of the Lord not only one but several others including yourself might have been killed . . .

"Had it not been for the jury's recommendation for leniency, and your own excellent record, I would have given you a very much heavier sentence . . . My first duty is the protection of the public.

"I sentence you to serve six months at Oakalla."

Missions Leader

VANCOUVER (CP) — Mrs. David C. Dick of Richmond has been elected president of the British Columbia Conference of the United Church Woman's Missionary Society, succeeding Mrs. K. C. Cook of Vancouver.

Vice-presidents are Mrs. W. J. McIntyre, Victoria; Mrs. G. Fotheringham, Sardis; and Mrs. J. H. Yule and Mrs. J. L. Todd, Vancouver. Mrs. Gordon East, Vancouver, is recording secretary! Mrs. Robert Millar, Vancouver, is corresponding secretary, and Mrs. G. R. Chapman, Vancouver, is treasurer.

Sea Island All Needed

VANCOUVER (CP)—The whole of Sea Island must be acquired immediately for essential expansion of Vancouver International Airport over the next 20 years, Vancouver's technical planning board said Tuesday.

The report also recommended a complete new highway to ring the island, at the mouth of the Fraser.

Turn Law May Be Changed

Victoria's bylaw prohibiting mid-block left turns in the downtown area may be modified.

Public works committee of city council discussed that possibility yesterday while considering the situation of the airport bus company which, committee was told, is having difficulty using its Government Street depot because of a police crackdown on the left turns across streets.

"Why not modify the bylaw to say drivers shall not turn left into oncoming traffic?" suggested Ald. Geoffrey Edgelow.

"The only trouble is, you can't put brains behind the wheel," replied Ald. Hugh Ramsay. "Everyone would have his own idea of what constituted oncoming traffic."

"Perhaps it could be made effective for certain hours," city engineer James Garnett said.

The committee asked for a study of possible modification.

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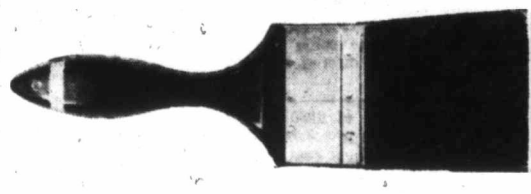

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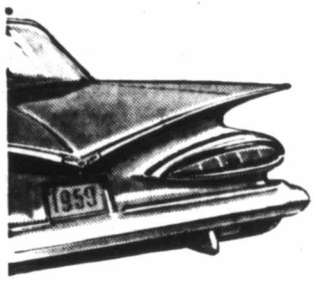

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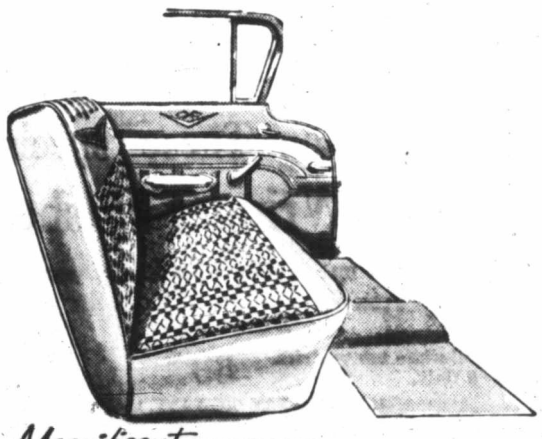

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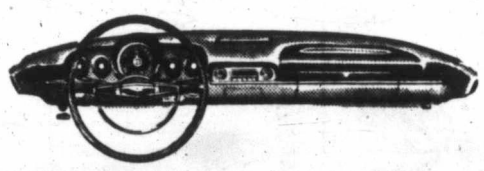

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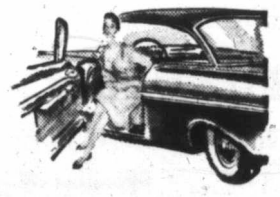

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